

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner indicating that claims 9, 13-14, 26, and 30 are allowed.

Allowed Claims

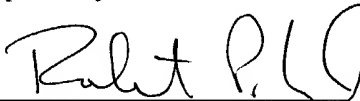
Claims 9 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form, including the base claim and any intervening claims, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claim 14 is dependent from allowable claim 13, and thus is allowable for at least the same reasons. Claims 26 and 30 are allowed and have thus not been amended by this reply. Thus, claims 9, 13-14, 26, and 30 are now all in allowable form. Claims 9, 13, and 14 are no longer incomplete and Applicant requests that any objections to these claim should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 16159/133001; P2287).

Dated: December 2, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

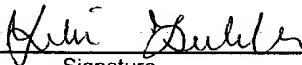
Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
Osha & May L.L.P.
1221 McKinney, Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)

Certificate of Express Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 576720125US in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on December 2, 2004
Date


Signature

Yuki Tsukuda

Typed or printed name of person signing Certificate

Registration Number, if applicable

(713) 228-8600
Telephone Number

Note: Each paper must have its own certificate of mailing, or this certificate must identify each submitted paper.